

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 03689 192210Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
SAB-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 IO-14
HA-05 /114 W

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R 192029Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7564
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS BOGOTA 3689

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR, CO, PN, US, XM
SUBJ: CANALS: LOCAL REACTIONS TO RATIFICATION OF SECOND
PANAMA CANAL TREATY

REF: A) BOGOTA 3624; B) STATE 095209; C) BOGOTA 2854

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ, IN RADIO INTERVIEW ON APRIL 18, CALLED THE SENATE'S RATIFICATION OF THE SECOND PANAMA CANAL TREATY THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND "EVIDENCE OF US GOOD-WILL TO CHANGE ITS HEMISPHERIC POLICY." HE ADDED THE HOPE THAT THIS GOOD-WILL WOULD BE EXTENDED TO US-LATIN AMERICAN COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL RELATIONS "IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A TRUE EQUALITY." LOPEZ ALSO SAID THAT THE TREATY REAFFIRMED THE DOCTRINE OF NON-INTERVENTION, A SUBJECT HE HAD ADDRESSED IN AN EARLIER SPEECH (REF A). HE REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE THAT COLOMBIA'S RIGHTS IN THE CANAL UNDER THE THOMSON-URRUTIA TREATY WERE PROTECTED BY THE NOVEMBER 1977 UNDERSTANDING WITH PANAMA WHICH HE EXPECTED WOULD BE FORMALIZED BY A TREATY BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND PANAMA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. LIBERAL PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER JULIO CESAR TURBAY, THE ONLY CANDIDATE TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE SENATE VOTE SO FAR, CALLED
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THE RATIFICATION THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STEP THAT THE US CONGRESS HAS TAKEN REGARDING LATIN AMERICA. TURBAY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION, AND PRAISED PRESIDENT CARTER FOR THE COURAGE WITH WHICH HE FACED A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

3. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SENATE ACTION HAS CONSISTED MOSTLY OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. EDITORIAL COMMENT BY THE MAJOR

DAILIES, WHEN IT APPEARS, IS EXPECTED TO BE STRONGLY FAVORABLE.
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Message Attributes

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